A list of the members of the twenty-eighth session of the Assembly is republished as Appendix B.

The proceedings commenced at 12 noon, T. Austin Esq., I. C. S., Barrister-at-Law, Dewan, presiding. Among those present were H. S. Chatfield Esq., M. A., Barrister-at-Law, Chief Justice, High Court, Major G. F. Turner, M. C., Commandant, Nayar Brigade, Mrs. Austin, heads of the several departments and offices and members of the Legislative Council.

Copies of the Dewan's opening address, in English, Malayalam and Tamil, were distributed to the members, as also copies of the *Administration Report* for 1106 M. E., in English and Malayalam, of the report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for 1106 M. E., in English and Malayalam, of the *Statistics of Travancore* for 1106 M. E., in English, and of the memoranda of subjects for representation at the session, in English, Malayalam and Tamil. Copies, in English, of the *Statement of Action* taken on the pending representations of the twenty-second and subsequent sessions and on the representations of the 27th session of the Assembly were also distributed among the members.

The Dewan then opened the session with the following

ADDRESS.

'MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY,

I am commanded by His Highness the Maha Raja to welcome you to the twenty-eighth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. This is the first session of the Assembly since the assumption by His Highness the Maha Raja of ruling powers; and it would be appropriate to begin the proceedings with the offer of our tribute of loyal felicitations and an expression of our fervent wishes for a long, prosperous and glorious reign.

Investiture.

2. An event of universal rejoicing throughout the State was the investiture of His Highness the Maha Raja with ruling powers in Full Durbar held on the 6th November 1931. The occasion was hailed with joy by all classes of the people and was celebrated in the remotest corners of the State. The celebrations at the Capital lasted for over a week and attracted unprecedented crowds. The events connected with the official ceremony have been described in the *Gazette Extraordinary* dated the 9th November, 1931. Public meetings, processions, feeding of the poor and of school children formed part of most of the mofussil celebrations. Non-officials initiated the formation of a strong and representative committee at Trivandrum which arranged for an exhibition in Chitranagar. His Highness the Maha Raja was pleased to visit the exhibition on the opening day and to receive on a second visit a loyal address from the people. In the speech which he made at the Investiture Durbar, His Highness after affirming his resolve to maintain the continuity of ties that bind the Travancore Ruling Family and the State to His Majesty the King Emperor and his representatives and

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after expressing His Highness's patriotic ambition to secure for Travancore its rightful place in the front rank of Indian States, was pleased to make a few momentous announcements. These were the appointment of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar as Legal and Constitutional Adviser, the donation of one lakh of rupees out of the privy purse to serve as initial capital for a land mortgage bank, the gift of half a lakh of rupees for starting a home for the destitute and the infirm, and the promise to place the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly on a statutory basis with enlarged functions and powers.

The Round Table Conference.

3. Sir Mirza M. Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, had been nominated by the Government of India to represent the South Indian States at the first Round Table Conference in London and Dewan Bahadur T. Raghaviah, was with the previous approval of this Government, selected to instruct him on behalf of Travancore, Cochin and Pudukotta. For the second Round Table Conference held in London in October 1931, Mr. Raghaviah was nominated by the Government of India to represent Travancore and the other South Indian States.

The Indian States Committee.

4. As you are all aware, one direct result of the second Round Table Conference held in London was the appointment of the Indian States Committee "to explore more fully the specific financial problems arising in connection with certain individual States." The Committee, presided over by the Rt. Hon'ble J. C. C. Davidson, arrived at Trivandrum on the evening of the 12th February last. A portion of the party, led by the Rt. Hon'ble the Lord Hastings, proceeded by the backwaters and inspected the ports and customs houses at Alleppey and Quilon. On the 13th and 14th February, the Committee held conferences with the Dewan and Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar representing the Travancore Government. The Committee was furnished with memoranda dealing with the problems special to Travancore. Being a maritime State, Travancore carries on sea-borne trade on an extensive scale, and the importance of 'customs' as a source of State revenue cannot be over-emphasised. Naturally, the case for the revision of the compensation amount payable under the Interportal Convention of 1865 came up for prominent discussion, and received the close attention of the Committee. The immunities and privileges enjoyed by Travancore in respect of export duty, salt, tobacco, the State postal system and coinage engaged the notice of the Committee. The subject of cash contributions now paid by Travancore to the British Government was examined. The attention of the Committee was also drawn to the anomalies and inconveniences arising from the existence, within Travancore territory, of a few isolated areas under British occupation, *viz.*, Anjengo, Tangacherry, and the Shertallai *pattam* lands. It is hoped that the just and legitimate claims urged on behalf of the Travancore Government will receive due recognition at the hands of the

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